

Broadband Speed Test

On January 13, 2010, the State of Nebraska was approved for \$2.1 million in stimulus funding for broadband mapping and planning activities as part of the Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to increase broadband access and adoption throughout the country. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), an agency within the Department of Commerce, awarded \$1.2 million of the funding for a two year period ending December 31, 2011 to complete broadband data collection and mapping. The state data will be submitted to the NTIA for inclusion in the national broadband database and the mapping efforts will assist the NTIA in producing a national broadband map expected to be publicly available by February, 2011. The Nebraska Public Service Commission (NPSC) was named the designated entity by Governor Dave Heineman to apply for the grant and complete the mapping and planning project. Through a competitive bid process the NPSC selected Apex CoVantage (Apex) to assist in completing the project.

Information and data about the availability of broadband services in Nebraska will initially be collected through broadband service provider responses to data request issued by the NPSC. The data will then be independently verified Apex through field sampling and interviews with consumers. Part of the field verification involves asking consumers to use their computers to access a dedicated web site to conduct a speed test of their broadband connection.

Consumers can reach the speed test web site by going to the NPSC web site (www.psc.state.ne.us) and following the link at the bottom center of the page. If a consumer was one of the locations selected for an interview they will be given a card containing the web site address and a survey identification number that should be entered when they conduct the test. Consumers that were not part of the field verification can enter their street address and zip code. The only information collected by the speed test will be the geographical area the test was initiated from and the upload / download speed and latency. No personnel information about the consumers or the consumers computer will be collected. No software will be downloaded or changes made to the consumers computer.

If you have any questions about the performance of your computer or what the numbers mean you should contact your broadband service provider. For all other questions you can contact the Nebraska Public Service Commission at (800) 526-0017.